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Farm Broadcasters Letter



CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Letter No. 2283

Oct. 10, 1986

USSR GRAIN PURCHASES

In recent weeks, the Soviet Union apparently has purchased 1 million tons of wheat from the European Community, less than 1 million from Australia, and 300,000 tons from Austria, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, Yugoslavia sold the Soviets 600,000 tons of corn. Meanwhile, for the second year in a row, the Soviet Union failed to fulfill its long-term grain agreement with the U.S. That agreement required the Soviets to purchase 9 million tons of U.S. grain, including 4 million tons each of wheat and corn, annually from Oct. 1, 1983 through Sept. 30, 1988. The Soviet purchase of European Community wheat was made under a special one-day subsidy for the Soviet of \$130 per ton. Total Soviet purchases of U.S. grain, largely corn, were 7 million tons.

CANADIAN GRAIN SALES

Due to the month-long strike at Thunder Bay, the Canadian Wheat Board has indicated that it has turned down business because delivery could not be guaranteed. In addition, since most grain is normally cleaned at Thunder Bay before it's shipped east, the strike also resulted in a lack of clean grain for export, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Inland terminals are unable to clean enough grain to maintain supplies. Under a federal mediator, a tentative contract agreement was reached over the first weekend of Oct., but has not been approved by union members as of Oct. 8.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SELLING U.S. RED MEAT

In September, Brazil announced measures aimed at resolving its serious domestic red meat shortage, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Measures affecting trade include: Allowing private, tax-exempt imports of red meat and fish through Dec. 31, 1987; suspending all exports of fresh and processed beef; and reexamining all contracts for chicken exports. These measures could provide an opportunity for increased sales of U.S. meat to Brazil, as well as limit Brazilian chicken exports that compete with U.S. shipments.

DAIRY TERMINATION SLAUGHTER

An estimated 12,600 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Sept. 20 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Sept. 20 is an estimated 776,000 head.

LESS U.S. COTTON TO CANADA	According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the portion of Canada's cotton needs supplied by the U.S. dropped sharply to 34 pct. in the 1985/86 marketing year, down from 97 pct. in 1984/85. Total Canadian cotton imports rose significantly, however. China replaced the U.S. as Canada's top cotton supplier, jumping from zero to 33 pct., due to favorable Chinese cotton prices. South Africa supplied 9 pct. of Canada's needs.
U.S. COTTON EXPORTS UP	U.S. cotton exports increased sharply during Aug. to reach 286,000 bales, the highest monthly level since June 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The leading markets were Japan, South Korea, Italy, Taiwan, Indonesia and West Germany. The total 1986/87 season exports are also expected to rebound from last season's poor showing and are forecast at 6½ million bales, over three times the amount exported in 1985/86.
COW ON-LINE	Information about international animal health regulations as well as regulations on interstate livestock shipments is now available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new on-line electronic information system. By accessing the on-line system for instance, a cattleman can find out what must be done before sending a hog from Nebraska to China. The new information system is known formally as the International Regulations Retrieval System. The system can be accessed via AGNET, sponsored by the Univ. of Nebraska. For more information, call AGNET at 402/472-1892.
CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR MEXICO	The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Oct. 7 authorized up to \$745 million in credit guarantees to Mexico in fiscal 1987 to permit that country to buy U.S. agricultural commodities. These credit guarantees provide \$320 million in coverage for sales of feed grains - corn, sorghum, barley and oats; \$215 million for sales of oilseeds - soybean, cottonseed, peanut, flaxseed, and sunflowers. For further information, call 202/447-3224.
A WEED THAT'S HOME ON THE RANGE	There's an enemy on the range called the knapweed, a foreign plant that has spread over millions of acres of Western rangeland, killing off indigenous grasses that otherwise could provide food for grazing cattle. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has entered the war with biological control, using live organisms to wipe out or to limit the advance of the weed. The control weapon is an imported insect, the seed-head fly. The insect is the weed's natural enemy. It lays eggs in unopened knapweed flower buds. When the eggs hatch, the larva damage the bud and prevent most of its seeds from developing.
NEW WINDMILL IN TEXAS	Texas is looking to windmills for electrical energy. Construction has begun on the vertical shaft of a 164-foot experimental windmill that scientists hope will be able to produce 500 thousand watts of electricity in a 28 mph wind. According to a researcher of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that's 100 times the energy from a traditional water-pumping windmill. It's still experimental and won't be ready for testing until next spring. For more information, contact <u>Nolan Clark</u> in Bushland, Texas - 806/378-5721.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...Heavy rains and flooding have taken its toll on crop and harvesting conditions in the Midwest. USDA meteorologist Ray Motha offers the latest weather and crop update for the U.S. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (291)

WORLD AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...USDA economist Richard Kennedy examines the situation and outlook for world agriculture, including the outlook for world meat production, as well as the decline in coarse grain exports this year. Vic Powell interviews. (292)

U.S. RICE OUTLOOK...Exports of U.S. rice have more than tripled this year, and rice exports are likely to remain competitive in the future. USDA economist Janet Livezey focuses on factors contributing to the dramatic rise in U.S. rice exports. Vic Powell interviews. (293)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...USDA research scientists from the Agricultural Research Service are making fabrics that can adapt to extreme cold temperatures; and are using video to study roots to determine plant stress in these research reports. Will Pemble interviews. (294)

FROZEN SOYBEANS...Food scientists with the University of Illinois are harvesting green soybeans as a possible new frozen food product with great market potential for the food industry. Gary Beaumont interviews. (295)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1532...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Farmers appear to be one of the most susceptible groups to hearing problems. Experts say that's because farmers spend a lot of time with noisy equipment. On this edition of AGRICULTURE USA, Gary Crawford demonstrates how noise can damage your hearing.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1521...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Hard times for co-ops; The South Korean market; Lower dairy production.

CONSUMER TIME #1014...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Trace elements and obesity; Algeria, lots of potential; A risky gamble; Overcoming lactose intolerance; The home gardeners enemy.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Oct. 14, Weekly crop and weather; Thurs, Oct. 16, Milk production; Mon, Oct. 20, Catfish, Agricultural Outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Dave Russell has left WOWO, Fort Wayne, Indiana, after 5 years to accept a job as the head of the Indiana Farm Bureau information department. Steve Schram, WOWO station manager is looking for Dave's replacement. His number is 219-424-2400 ... For the sixth time in the last seven years, KRVN, Lexington, Nebraska, has received the top agricultural service award in the annual Ak-Sar-Ben radio awards competition. The gold "Service to Agriculture" award went to the daily "Country Roads," program produced and hosted by Rich Hawkins and Ken Anderson. Our congratulations! ... One of the pioneer farm broadcasters, Orville "Sandy" Saunders has been honored. He was farm broadcaster at WKY, Oklahoma City, in the 1950's and went on to become president and general manager of the State Fair of Oklahoma. The honor was a life-size statue, unveiled at the fair this year. Our thanks to Layne Beaty (retired USDA Radio/TV Chief) for passing on the information Our Don Elder (Producer/host, A BETTER WAY) is getting married (in fact is married by the time you read this since the wedding date was October 11). His bride Nancy is the meeting planner for the American Chemical Society here in D.C. ... Point of interest: The Dietary Guidelines issued by USDA last year are now available in Spanish. We have a few free copies, so if you want one, let me know ... Our George Holmes, who normally spends his time in USDA Radio, is back from a two week trip to Arizona and California...Arizona for radio interviews and California for a TV project, covering a raid on a marijuana "plantation" on a National Forest. His cameraman Linwood Jones was issued a flack jacket and went in with a group of heavily armed sheriff's deputies in the first helicopter. George returned fully convinced it's deadly business.


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